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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/951,276	10/16/1997	DAVID G. MCCARTHY	402-038-19	1410

7590  
MARK P STONE  
25 THIRD STREET  
4TH FLOOR  
STAMFORD, CT 06905

08/08/2007

EXAMINER
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HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/08/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/951,276

Applicant(s)

MCCARTHY, DAVID G.

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 May 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Cole 3,646,244 in view of Byrne. Regarding claims 6 and 19, Cole discloses a floor having a top surface 34 and an opening defined in said top surface; a receptacle unit 10 mounted in said opening in said top surface; said receptacle unit 10 comprising a top 22 and at least one sidewall extending downwardly from said top, said at least one sidewall having at least one receptacle 19 defined therein; means for selectively displacing said receptacle unit between a retracted position in which said top of said receptacle unit is planar with said top surface of said floor (see figs. 2 and 4), and an extended position in which said at least one receptacle in said at least one sidewall of said receptacle unit is elevated above the top surface of said floor (see figs. 3 & 4); and a housing 46 mounted to an underside of said top surface of said floor, said housing having an open top and being aligned with said opening defined in said top surface of said floor so as to receive said receptacle unit in said housing when said receptacle unit is in said retracted position, and means 45a, 45b for resiliently biasing the receptacle unit into said extended position, and cooperating releasable locking means 27, 37 for opposing said biasing means. Cole does not disclose the receptacle

being mounted in an article of furniture. However, mounting receptacles in articles of furniture is well known in the art as evidenced by Byrne. Byrne discloses a retractable receptacle 150 with sidewalls (front side of box 152) mounted in an opening in a top surface of an article of furniture 104. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the receptacle in an article of furniture for providing conveniently located electrical power source receptacles in/on a work surface such as a desk top or similar article of furniture as taught by Byrne.

Regarding claim 20, said housing 46 includes means 64 for coupling said receptacle unit to an external power source.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed May 7, 2007 have been fully considered but are not persuasive. In response Applicant's arguments that "elements 45a,45b do not urge the housing into it's extended position". The Examiner disagrees. Applicant recites "means for resiliently biasing the receptacle unit into said extended position". Cole provides means 45a,45b for resiliently biasing the receptacle unit into said extended position. Elements 45a,b are springs. When the receptacle unit 10 is manually pulled upward, means 45a,45b resiliently bias the receptacle unit into the extended position. In response Applicant's arguments that elements 27 are not "releaseable" (able to be released). The Examiner draws Applicant's attention to figure 5 which shows that element 27,37 is able to be released.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Brigitte R. Hammond  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2833

July 31, 2007